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SHORT PULSE CROPS IN JAPAN

TO BRING HIGHER IMPORTS

The 1964 pulse crop in Japan was reduced 30 percent below 1963 levels and 26 percent below those of 1962 by heavy rain and low temperatures in the Hokkaido area during July, August, and early September. Most Japanese pulses are produced in the Hokkaido area. Particularly affected were azuki and kidney-type beans, which constitute 85 to 90 percent of total Japanese pulse production.

TABLE 1: Pulse production in Japan

Type	1962	1963	1964	1964 as percent of 1963
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Percent
Kidney beans	100,700	135,200	98,000	72.5
Azuki beans	140,100	138,500	78,000	56.3
Dry peas	11,500	8,250	6,100	73.9
Broad beans	22,500	8,290	17,700	213.5
Cow peas	11,400	13,100	13,000	99.2
Mung beans	120	170	120	70.6
Total	286,320	303,510	212,920	70.2

Because of the short 1964 pulse crops, imports are expected to increase sharply in 1964-65. Probably the greatest change can be expected in kidney or lima bean imports, because azuki bean supplies are thought to be short in China also, from which Japan usually imports them.

TABLE 2: Japanese pulse imports, 1963, by kind and source

Source	Peas	Beans					Misc.	Total
		Azuki	Broad	Mung	Kidney	Peyin		
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons 1/	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Burma	--	--	--	24,392	36,371	12,870	14,245	87,878
China	389	11,742	11,652	789	71	--	919	25,562
Africa	601	48	3,134	--	735	--	2,787	7,305
U.S.A.	3,987	--	--	--	7,909	--	2,603	14,499
Other	5,586	487	30	1,544	1,939	501	732	10,819
Total	10,563	12,277	14,816	26,725	47,025	13,371	21,286	146,063

1/ Principally white, red, and spotted lima beans of varying sizes and shapes.

Generally, Japan looks to China for the bulk of its imports of azuki and broad beans. It imports from Burma most of its mung, lima, and peyin beans and miscellaneous pulses; and from the United States the bulk of its dry peas, as well as 2,000 to 8,000 tons of kidney-shaped and lima beans.

The peyin bean is a small, elongated bean, light brown or tan, about the size of a large wheat kernel. The azuki bean is a roundish, red-colored cowpea. Burmese beans, designated kidney beans, are principally white, red, or spotted lima beans. The latter vary in shape from that of normal lima beans to kidney beans.

TABLE 3: Japanese pulse imports by source

Source	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
Burma	35,349	33,832	35,217	52,055	63,903	87,878
China	51,823	52,751	49,016	12,022	17,471	25,562
Africa	92	--	173	13,510	6,541	7,305
United States	1,869	89	3,432	2,125	13,853	14,499
Other	1,925	6,435	6,853	3,875	7,641	10,819
Total	91,058	93,107	94,691	83,587	109,409	146,063

Japanese pulse imports have increased 60 percent in the past six years, from 91,000 tons in 1958 to 146,000 tons in 1963. This trend promises to accelerate in 1965. U.S. pulse trade with Japan has increased eightfold in six years, from 1,869 tons to 14,500 tons. Some of these imported beans have been low-cost broken or cracked beans, which the Japanese mix with azukis to make a sweet paste for use in confections. Today, the United States is the third largest source of Japanese pulse imports and, percentagewise, is the fastest growing source. Next year should be no exception in terms of this uptrend.

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